

REMARKS

I. Summary of the Office Action

Claims 161-187 are pending in this application.

Claims 161-163, 168, 169, 174-176, 181, 182, and 187 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Rothmuller U.S. Patent No. 5,635,989 (hereinafter "Rothmuller").

Claims 166, 167, 179, and 180 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious from Rothmuller in view of Macrae U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0208756 (hereinafter "Macrae").

Claims 164, 165, 170, 173, 177, 178, 183, and 186 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious from Rothmuller in view of Bedard U.S. Patent No. 5,801,747 (hereinafter "Bedard").

Claims 171, 172, 184, and 185 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious from Rothmuller in view of Bedard and further in view of Billock U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0059581 (hereinafter "Billock").

II. Summary of Applicant's Reply

Applicant has amended claims 161 and 174 in order to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter that applicant regards as the invention.

Applicant has added new claims 188-191.

The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

III. The §102 Rejections

Claims 161-163, 168, 169, 174-176, 181, 182, and 187 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly

being anticipated by Rothmuller. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended independent claims 161 and 174 are directed towards a method and system for adding a program of interest to a watch list using an interactive television program guide. A program of interest is added to the watch list in response to the user having watched the program for a specified amount of time. Programs of interest in the watch list are ranked based on the amount of time each program has been watched.

Rothmuller is directed to a method and apparatus for sorting and searching a television program guide for programs of interest. Rothmuller also describes a method for automatically generating a favorite program list by storing in memory the titles of programs viewed for a period of time exceeding a predetermined period of time (column 5, line 59 to column 6, line 4).

Applicant submits that Rothmuller does not show or suggest determining the amount of time the user has watched a program of interest, or ranking the programs of interest included in a watch list based on the amount of time each program has been watched.

For the above reasons, applicant submits that independent claims 161 and 174 are allowable. Dependent claims 162, 163, 168, 169, 175, 176, 181, 182, and 187, which depend from independent claims 161 and 174, are allowable at least because they depend from allowable claims. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 161-163, 168, 169, 174-176, 181, 182, and 187 be withdrawn.

IV. The § 103 Rejections

Claims 166, 167, 179, and 180 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious from Rothmuller in view of Macrae. Claims 164, 165, 170, 173, 177, 178, 183, and 186 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious from Rothmuller in view of Bedard. Claims 171, 172, 184, and 185 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being obvious from Rothmuller in view of Bedard and further in view of Billock.

Applicant has shown independent claims 161 and 174 to be allowable. Dependent claims 164-167, 170-173, 177-180, and 183-186, which depend from one of independent claims 161 and 174, are allowable at least because they depend from allowable claims. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 164-167, 170-173, 177-180, and 183-186 be withdrawn.

V. New Claims 188-191

Applicant has added new claims 188-191 to more particularly claim additional features of the invention. Applicant submits that claims 188-191 are allowable for at least the reason claims 161 and 174 are allowable.

VI. Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that this application, including claims 161-191, is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of this application are accordingly respectfully requested.

An early and favorable action is respectfully
requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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